

Senate Resolution No. 35

Introduced by Senator Knight

Relative to effluent disposal on Rosamond Dry Lake and Edwards
Air Force Base.

WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center, located at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, provides a critical Air Force research, development, test and evaluation mission; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center has been providing this mission since 1945, and as a result has assured the effectiveness and success of the Air Force in carrying out its global mission; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center is vital to the security and defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force Flight Test Center is important to the economic well-being of the entire high desert area surrounding the Air Force Flight Test Center, provides thousands of people with employment, and provides valuable income and tax revenues to neighboring communities, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, and to the entire State of California; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles County Sanitation District 14 owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant with evaporation ponds that is located to the west of Edwards Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, When the evaporation ponds at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District 14 wastewater treatment plant are filled beyond capacity, the overflow effluent discharge covers portions of Rosamond Dry Lake; and

WHEREAS, Rosamond Dry Lake is a unique natural resource that cannot be replicated and that is critical to safely conducting hazardous test missions at the Air Force Flight Test Center; and

WHEREAS, Effluent discharge on Rosamond Dry Lake causes an increase in the bird population in the primary high-speed approach corridor and in the range area at the Air Force Flight Test Center, which results in an increase in the Bird Air-Strike Hazard and increases the risk of aircraft damage and of the possible loss of life; and

WHEREAS, The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board issued waste discharge requirements to Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 in 1993, requiring the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 to cease effluent overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake by March 2000; and

WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base offered to provide the use of other land to the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 in 1995 on a short-term temporary basis to help alleviate the current effluent discharge problem; and

WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base offered to provide other land to the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 based on the assumption that no effluent would flow onto Rosamond Dry Lake during the lake's normal dry period, and that the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 would develop a long-term, permanent solution that did not involve Edwards Air Force Base land or the Rosamond Dry Lake; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 has not developed a long-term, permanent solution for effluent discharge, and continues to cause effluent to overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California does not support the expansion of the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 effluent disposal infrastructure, discharge, or overflow onto any portion of Edwards Air Force Base; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of California encourages the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to enforce the existing waste discharge requirements that require the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 to manage the effluent discharge so that it does not overflow onto Rosamond Dry Lake; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of California encourages the Los Angeles Sanitation District 14 to actively pursue a long-term solution of effluent disposal that minimizes use of Edwards Air Force Base land; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of California urges the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to approve a wastewater permit that ensures the long-term protection of the Rosamond Dry Lake and all other Edwards Air Force Base land from all effluent discharge activities that may impact the mission effectiveness of Edwards Air Force Base; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, to the State Water Quality Control Board, to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District 14, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the city councils of the City of Lancaster and the City of Palmdale.



Senate Resolution No. 35 read and adopted by the Senate August 25, 2000.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate

